Agenda Date: 2/22/06 Agenda Item:_{VII B}



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, New Jersey 07102

		Customer Assistance
920 Palisade Avenue Associates, Petitioner, V.))	ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION
United Water New Jersey, Respondent.)))	BPU Docket No. WC05070593L OAL Docket No. PUC 11852-05

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On July 5, 2005, 920 Palisade Avenue Associates (Petitioner) filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities (Board) for a hearing in regard to a billing dispute with United Water New Jersey (Respondent).

On September 27, 2005, the Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for determination and initial disposition as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq. The matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Edith Klinger.

During the pendency of this matter at the OAL, the parties engaged in negotiations and reached a settlement. The settlement was submitted to the ALJ for review. On January 19, 2006, ALJ Klinger filed an Initial Decision with the Board, memorializing the terms of the settlement and recommending that it be approved. The ALJ found the settlement to be voluntary, consistent with the law and fully dispositive of all issues in controversy. The ALJ therefore concluded that the settlement met the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1.

Under the terms of the settlement, United Water New Jersey will accept \$839.00 from Petitioner. Petitioner will pay the balance of \$839.00 on or before February 17, 2006, in addition to current water charges when due.

After review, the Board <u>FINDS</u> that the terms of the settlement are fair and reasonable. Therefore, the Board <u>HEREBY ADOPTS</u> the Initial Decision and Stipulation of Settlement in their entirety, incorporating the terms thereof into this final decision as if fully set forth at length herein.

DATED: 2/24/06

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

M. Fox

JEANNE M. FOX

PRESIDENT

FREDERICK F. BUTLER

COMMISSIONER

SOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

CONNIE O. HUGHES COMMISSIONER

CHRISTINE V. BATOR COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY

Krist deza

- 2 -

BPU Docket No. WC05070593U OAL Dkt. No. PUC 11852-05

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

Utilities

920 Palisade Avenue Associates v. United Water New Jersey

BPU Docket No. WC05070593U OAL Dkt. No. PUC 11852-05

SERVICE LIST

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John P. Wallace, Esq. 216 East Ridgewood Avenue Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Kent Papsun, Director Division of Customer Assistance Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102

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State of New Jersey OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

CMS
BESCON
RPA
SCUTZKU, J
HITERIO, P
STARK (2)

INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 11852-05 AGENCY DKT. NO. WC05070593U

920 PALISADE AVENUE ASSOCIATES,

Petitioner,

٧.

UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY,

Respondent.

Samuel H. Davis, Esq., for petitioner

John P. Wallace, Esq., for respondent

Record Closed: January 17, 2006

Decided: January 17, 2006

BEFORE EDITH KLINGER, ALJ:

This matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law on October 20, 2005 for determination as a contested case pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 52:14B-1 to -15 and *N.J.S.A.* 52:14F-1 to -13.

The parties have agreed to settle this matter and have prepared the attached Settlement Agreement indicating the terms of settlement.

I have reviewed the record and the settlement terms and I FIND:

JAN 1 9 2006

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

New Jersey is an Equal Opportunity Employer

- 1 The parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by their signatures.
- 2. The settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy and is consistent with the law.

CONCLUDE that this agreement meets the requirements of *N.J.A.C.* 1:1-19.1 and that the settlement should be approved. approve the settlement and therefore ORDER that the parties comply with the settlement terms and that these proceedings be concluded

I hereby FILE my initial decision with the BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES for consideration.

This recommended decision may be adopted, modified or rejected by the **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**, which by law is authorized to make a final decision in this matter. If the Board of Public Utilities does not adopt, modify or reject this decision within forty-five (45) days and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this recommended decision shall become a final decision in accordance with *N.J.S.A.* 52:14B-10.

Samay 17, 2006	Elektling
DATE	EDITH KLINGER, AL
	Receipt Acknowledged:
1/19/06 DATÉ	
DATE	BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
	Mailed to Parties:
DATE	
DATE	OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
pb	

JOHN P. WALLACE

216 East Ridgewood Avenue Ridgewood, NJ 07450 (201) 445-3533 Attorney for Respondent

920 PALISADE AVENUE : ASSOCIATES, :

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Petitioner, :

DOCKET NO. WC05070593U

vs.

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY,

Respondent.

The parties to this matter having reached a settlement with respect to the above matter, which relates to a disputed water bill of issued by Respondent for Account # 997 799 201 - 1 Medford Road, Dumont, New Jersey,

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. Respondent, United Water New Jersey, will ACCEPT credit to Petitioner in the amount of \$ 839.00 for Account # 997 799 201 with respect to water bills of \$ 2499.00 OF WHICH 9550.00 WAS BEEN f:
- 2. Petitioner agrees to pay the balance owed on said account amounting to \$ 83 on or before Feb. 17,2006 2006, in addition to current water charges when due.
- 3. Petitioner agrees : ne petition in the above matter be and same is hereby w rawn.

Dated: January 17, 2006

920 PALISADE AVENUE **ASSOCIATES**

BY/:

SAMUEL H. DAVIS

Attorney for Petitioner

JOHN P. WALLACE Attorney for Respondent